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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Opposition to settling with Microsoft

I have followed this case closely since its inception.

Already WindowsXP does exactly with MS was accused of doing in this case. It incorporates more software "into" the OS, at the expense of other independant software vendors. MS is unrepentant, and will not change on its own. And the proposed settlement, does almost nothing to prevent MS from continuing to abuse its monopoly position, it only makes life a little easier for computer manufacturers whom microsoft will no longer be able to bully quite so easily.

The ONLY settlement that I think would have any hope of providing a remedy, and prevent future similar behavior is a break up of MS. MS should be split into two companies:

1. An OS company
2. An applications software company

If this were the result, then there would be incentives on the OS company to produce a platform that is easier to port software to, by making it more POSIX compliant. And the Applications company would have incentives to make the Apps available on other OSes, because it would increase market share. In both cases, the consumer (who has been determined by the court to have been harmed), competition, and industry as a whole would benefit.

It seems to me that the settlement proposed is a major cave-in by the DOJ, that at the very least smacks of the influence of MS campaign contributions to the Bush presidential campaign. I think the DOJ should be ashamed of its cowering before MS. It is very disturbing that a hard won verdict is being tossed away by the DOJ.

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